



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Timothy M. Londergan      Art Unit : 1711  
Serial No. : 10/713,469      Examiner : Duc Truong  
Filed : November 14, 2003  
Title : POLY(ARYLENE ETHERS) WITH PENDANT CROSSLINKABLE GROUPS,  
AND DEVICES INCORPORATING SAME

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF MAY 4, 2005

In reply to the Office Action of May 4, 2005, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 17-40 are pending, and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Lau et al., U.S. 6,313,185 ("Lau"). Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection for the following reasons.

Lau describes nanoporous materials prepared from polymers having crosslinkable groups (e.g., acetylene groups) incorporated in the backbone of the polymer. Lau defines the "backbone" as "a contiguous chain of atoms or moieties forming a polymeric strand [that] are covalently bound such that removal of any of the atoms or moiety would result in interruption of the chain" (col. 5, lines 8-11), and states that "[r]eactive groups are contemplated to be positioned in any part of the backbone, including the termini" (col. 6, lines 2-3). It is these reactive groups incorporated in the backbone that effect crosslinking.

The presence of crosslinkable groups in the backbone of the polymer, as opposed to a pendant group attached to the backbone, is a critical feature of the polymers described in the Lau

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August 1, 2005  
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Judith A. Witzel  
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Judith A. Witzel

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